

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Office Action mailed July 2, 2003, the Examiner rejected claims 20-27 and 30-33 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Imazu et al. Applicants amend claims 20, 22, 24, 26, 30, 32, and 33 and address the Examiner's rejections. Clerical error is corrected with an amendment to the specification. No new matter is added.

Prior Art Rejections

Claims 20-27 and 30-33 were rejected under §102(b) in view of Imazu et al. (USP 6,948,487).

Imazu et al. describe a large-scale paste electrolytic processing apparatus with a cylindrical electrode arranged transversely with respect to the surface of a metallic member to be treated.

The present invention is directed to a pad assembly for plating and polishing a semiconductor workpiece. Multiple anode arrangements are disclosed in the present invention. Amended independent claim 20 is representative of an embodiment of the present invention and requires:

a cylindrical anode having an outer surface; and
a plurality of pad strips mounted on the cylindrical anode which protrudes from the outer surface of the cylindrical anode and configured to planarize and fill cavities on the semiconductor workpiece.

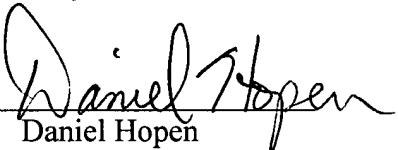
Applicant submits that the cited references do not teach or suggest the presently claimed invention. For these reasons, Applicants request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

Conclusion

Applicants amend claims 20, 22, 24, 26, 30, 32, and 33 and address the §102 rejections of the Examiner. It is submitted that the claims are allowable over the prior art of record. For these reasons, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejections to the claims.

If any matters can be resolved by telephone, Applicants request that the Patent and Trademark Office call the Applicant at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 
Daniel Hopen
Reg. No. 35,547

Legal Department
NuTool, Inc.
1655 McCandless Drive
Milpitas, CA 95035
(408) 586-9500x268